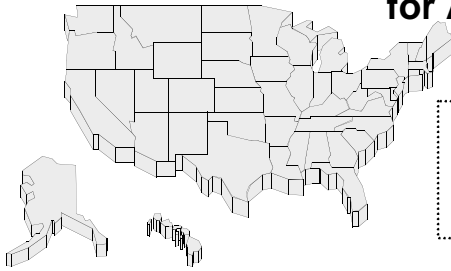


# CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING:

## Routes to SPECIAL EDUCATION Certification in California for Applicants from Another State



*Do you hold a valid comparable ★ special education teaching credential in another state based on a program at a regionally accredited college or university in the United States?*

YES

NO

*Do you have five years of special education teaching experience?*

YES

NO

Apply for Level I<sup>Ⓐ</sup> under  
AB 1620 (Scott)✱

*Since 1-1-97, have you completed a comparable ★ special education professional preparation program with student teaching and qualified for the credential in a “reciprocity” state?*

YES

NO

Apply for Level I<sup>Ⓐ</sup> under  
reciprocity law. ✱

*Since 1-1-97, have you completed a comparable ★ special education professional preparation program with student teaching and qualified for the credential in a “reciprocity” state?*

YES

NO

Apply for Level I<sup>Ⓐ</sup> under  
reciprocity law. ✱

Apply for Level I under  
AB 838 (Pacheco)Ⓐ.

OR

*Have you completed a comparable ★ special education professional preparation program with student teaching?+*

YES

NO

Apply for Level I<sup>Ⓐ</sup> via  
traditional route. ✱

Contact an IHE about a program, and consider an  
internship, pre-internship or emergency permit. Ⓐ

✱ One-Year Nonrenewable available  
pending passage of CBEST

Ⓐ Offer of employment needed  
prior to application

★ A comparable out-of-state special  
education program has course work  
that focuses on the specific disability  
categories covered by a California  
special education program

+ A two year preliminary is available

**EDUCATION SPECIALIST INSTRUCTION CREDENTIAL  
 REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS PREPARED OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA**

The Education Specialist Instruction Credential authorizes the holder to teach in the area of specialization listed on the credential in the following settings: special day classes, special schools, home/hospital settings, correctional facilities, nonpublic schools and agencies, and resource rooms.

**Education Specialist Areas of Specialization:**

- Mild/Moderate Disabilities (M/M) -- includes specific learning disabilities, mild to moderate mental retardation, attention deficit and attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, and serious emotional disturbance and authorizes serving individuals in kindergarten, grades one through twelve, and in classes organized primarily for adults through age 22.
- Moderate/Severe Disabilities (M/S) -- includes autism, deaf-blindness, moderate to severe mental retardation, multiple disabilities, and serious emotional disturbance and authorizes serving individuals in kindergarten, grades one through twelve, and in classes organized primarily for adults through age 22.
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) -- includes deafness, hearing impairment, and deaf-blindness and authorizes serving individuals ages birth through 22.
- Visual Impairments (VI) -- includes blindness, visual impairment, and deaf-blindness and authorizes serving individuals ages birth through 22.
- Physical and Health Impairments (PHI) -- includes orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, multiple disabilities, and traumatic brain injury and authorizes serving individuals ages birth through 22.
- Early Childhood Special Education - (ECSE) -- includes the mild/moderate and moderate/severe disabilities listed above and authorizes serving children ages birth to prekindergarten only\*.

	One-Year Non-Renewable	Two Year Preliminary	Three –Year Extension	Five Year Level 1 Credential
Requirements for the document (as described below)	#1 and #2 and Employer request	#1, #2, #3 and #10 or Receive a Certificate of Eligibility	# 4 - #10	#1 - #10 or Receive a Certificate of Eligibility
Requirements to be completed during the term of this document	CBEST	Non- special education pedagogy Supervised field experience in regular education Reading RICA Subject Matter Basic Computer U.S. Constitution	Level II Requirements	Level II Requirements

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRELIMINARY LEVEL I CREDENTIAL**

1. **Baccalaureate or higher degree** from a regionally accredited institution of postsecondary education.
2. **A professional preparation program in an education specialist category**, completed outside of California and consisting of a minimum of 24 semester units, in a credential category comparable to an accredited California program, including successful completion of a supervised field study.
3. **Passage of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST)**. To pass CBEST one must obtain a minimum scaled score of 41 in each of the three sections (reading, mathematics, and writing). However, a section score as low as 37 is acceptable if the total scaled score is at least 123. Out-of-state applicants who have not yet passed the CBEST may wish to contact a California school district about the possibility of obtaining a One-Year Non-Renewable (OYNR) Credential pending the passage of CBEST. See the CBEST leaflet (CL-667) for more details.
4. At least three semester units in non-special education pedagogy related to teaching basic academic skills and content areas.
5. At least one semester unit of supervised field experience in regular education verified by transcript OR 45 clock hours with non-special education students verified by the employing agency.

\*An Early Childhood Special Education Certificate is also available to individuals who already hold a clear, professional clear or life special education credential and who complete a certificate program through a Commission-accredited college or university. Contact an institution with an accredited Early Childhood Special Education Credential program (see table on reverse) for more information on Certificate programs and requirements.

6. **Completion of the Developing English Language Skills, including Reading** requirement by successful completion of a comprehensive reading instruction course that includes the systematic study of phonemic awareness, phonics, and decoding; literature, language and comprehension; and diagnostic and early intervention techniques,
7. **Passage of RICA for Education Specialist** (Effective 1-1-00).  
Applicants who hold, at the time they apply for their California credential, a valid special education credential from another U.S. state based upon completion of a teacher preparation program are exempted from this requirement\*\*. Contact the Commission office for The Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA): Why, What, When and Who? for more information regarding this requirement.
8. **Verification of subject matter competence** by either passing the Multiple Subjects Assessment for Teachers (MSAT) or by passing the required subject matter examination(s) for a single subject area (as specified in leaflet CL-674S) **OR** by completing a Commission-accredited subject matter program of course work or its equivalent and obtaining certification of completion of the program from the authorized person in the education department of a California college or university with an approved program in the subject area\*\*\*.
9. Passage of a course (at least two semester units) in the provisions and principles of the **United States Constitution** or passage of an examination in the subject given by a regionally accredited community college, college, or university, or verification of meeting the Interstate Agreement requirements described on page 3 of this leaflet.
10. **An offer of employment** from a California school district, non-public school or agency, or county office of education, verified by submission of form CL-777.1 with the application for the credential. If the applicant has no offer of employment, a Certificate of Eligibility may be issued verifying completion of eligibility of level or two year preliminary.

**Period of Validity:** The Preliminary Education Specialist Instruction Credential is valid for five years from the date of issuance.

#### **INTERSTATE AGREEMENT**

Applicants who meet the Interstate Agreement are considered to have successfully completed their professional specialist preparation program requirement (#2 on the front of this leaflet) and the U.S. Constitution requirement (#9 above). The Interstate Agreement does not clear any of the other requirements. The Interstate Agreement applies to applicants for the Education Specialist Teaching Credential who hold or are eligible for a comparable credential from outside of California and who:

1. have completed a state-approved special education preparation program at a regionally accredited institution in a state with which California has an agreement, **OR**
2. hold a regular or advanced certificate for special education instruction issued by a state with which California has an agreement **AND** during the seven years immediately preceding application for certification in California, of satisfactory service as an educator for not fewer than twenty-seven months, in one or more member states, on at least a one-half time basis, in an assignment matching the certification which is sought.

#### **STATES HAVING INTERSTATE AGREEMENTS WITH CALIFORNIA AS OF APRIL 1, 1997:**

Alabama	District of Columbia	Indiana	Mississippi	New York	Rhode Island	Virginia
Arizona	Florida	Kentucky	Montana	North Carolina	South Carolina	Washington
Arkansas	Georgia	Maine	Nevada	Ohio	Tennessee	West Virginia
Colorado	Hawaii	Maryland	New Hampshire	Oklahoma	Texas	
Connecticut	Idaho	Massachusetts	New Jersey	Oregon	Utah	
Delaware	Illinois	Michigan	New Mexico	Pennsylvania	Vermont	

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL CLEAR LEVEL II CREDENTIAL**

11. Completion of an **individualized induction plan** designed by the specialist in collaboration with the specialist's employing agency and a California college or university with a Commission-accredited education specialist program in the area of specialization listed on the Preliminary Level I credential. This plan will include academic requirements applicable to all Level II candidates as well as individualized studies and consultations focusing on the needs and employment assignment of the specific candidate. This plan may contain up to 25% non-university based activities, if approved by the college or university administering the program.
12. Completion of a course in **Health Education**, including, but not limited to, nutrition, the physiological and sociological effects of abuse of alcohol, narcotics, and drugs, and the use of tobacco. This requirement must include verification of training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) which covers infant and child to adult CPR skills. CPR certification must be completed while the applicant is in a teacher preparation program or is teaching on a valid credential based on a teacher education program.
13. Completion of a course in **Computer Education**, including instruction in general and specialized skills in the use of computers in educational settings.
14. Verification of a minimum of two years of successful experience in a public school (or private school with equivalent status) while holding the Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential, verified by the employing agency.
15. **Formal Recommendation for the credential** by the college or university through which the individualized induction plan was completed.

\*\* Verification of RICA is **not required** for the area of Early Childhood Special Education.

\*\*\* Verification of Subject Matter Competence is **not required** for the area of Early Childhood Special Education.

**COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN CALIFORNIA  
WITH ACCREDITED EDUCATION SPECIALIST LEVEL II PROGRAMS AS OF 4-1-00**

<b>CSU System</b>	<b>M/M</b>	<b>M/S</b>	<b>DHH</b>	<b>PHI</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>ECSE</b>
CSPU Pomona	X	X				
CSU Bakersfield	X	X				
CSU Chico	X	X				X
CSU Dominguez Hills	X	X				X
CSU Fresno	X	X	X			
CSU Fullerton	X	X				X
CSU Hayward	X	X				
CSU Long Beach	X	X				
CSU Los Angeles	X	X		X	X	X
CSU Northridge	X	X	X			X
CSU Sacramento	X	X				X
CSU San Bernardino	X	X				
CSU Stanislaus	X	X				
San Diego State University	X	X				X
San Francisco State	X	X	X	X	X	
Sonoma State University	X	X				
<b>UC System</b>						
UC Riverside	X	X				
<b>Private/Independent Institutions</b>						
California Lutheran University	X	X				
Santa Clara University	X					X
University of San Francisco	X					
University of Southern California			X			

**KEY to accredited Education Specialist Instruction Credential programs:**

**M/M** = Mild/Moderate Disabilities

**DHH** = Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

**VI** = Visual Impairments

**M/S** = Moderate/Severe Disabilities

**PHI** = Physical and Health Impairments

**ECSE** = Early Childhood Special Education

**Period of Validity:** The Professional Clear Education Specialist Instruction Credential will expire the same date as any other professional clear credential held. If no other professional clear credentials are held, this credential will expire five years from the date of issuance.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL OF THE PROFESSIONAL CLEAR CREDENTIAL**

The professional clear credential must be renewed every five years. Renewal requirements include completion of an individualized program of professional growth resulting in verification of at least 150 hours of professional growth activities, and verification of at least 90 days of successful service in a position in education. An application and fee are also required for renewal of the document.

References: Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Subsection 300.5; Education Code Sections 44225 & 44265; Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Sections 80023-80024.3.2 & 80046.5-80048.6.

**ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR TEACHERS PREPARED OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA**

*When applying for a credential based upon one of the following options, please indicate the option being used in Section 2 of the credential application form.*

**EDUCATION SPECIALIST CREDENTIAL BASED ON EDUCATION CODE SECTION 44275.3 (AB838 - PACHECO)**

Teachers prepared in another United States state or territory who have completed some of the requirements for the Preliminary Level I Credential may choose to apply for an Education Specialist Credential based upon Education Code Section 44275.3. This option allows teachers to meet outstanding requirements while holding a credential. The credential remains valid as long as the holder is able to verify completion of the outstanding requirements at intervals specified below. For initial issuance of this document the applicant prepared in another United States state or territory must:

1. verify completion of a **baccalaureate or higher degree** from a regionally accredited institution of postsecondary education;
2. verify **completion of a professional preparation program** completed outside of California that resulted in that state's certification and consisted of a minimum of 24 semester units, in a credential category comparable to an accredited California program, including successful completion of a supervised field study;
3. verify **possession of a valid out-of-state teaching credential** in a special education category comparable to a Commission-accredited program, issued by the state where the special education training was completed.
4. verify an **offer of employment** from a California school district, non-public school or agency, or county office of education, verified by submission of form CL-777.1 with the application for the credential;
5. submit an application form (41-4) and \$120.00 fee and, if the applicant does not already have fingerprint clearance on file with the Commission, the Character and Identification Clearance application (41-CIC), Livescan Service form (41-LS), or two fingerprint cards (FD-258), and fingerprint fees.

This credential will be valid for five years if the applicant verifies completion of additional requirements by the following dates:

- By the end of the first year of the credential's validity the applicant must: pass the CBEST.
- By the end of the fourth year of the credential's validity the applicant must complete the following requirements:
  - U.S. Constitution course or examination;
  - developing English Language Skills, including Reading course;
  - verification of subject-matter competence (*Early Childhood Special Education applicants are exempt from this requirements*);
  - at least three semester units in non-special education pedagogy related to teaching basic academic skills and content areas; and
  - at least one semester unit of supervised field experience in general education verified by transcript **OR** 45 clock hours with non-special education students verified by the employing agency.
- By the end of the fifth year of the credential's validity the applicant must complete the following requirements:
  - Health Education course;
  - Computer Education course;
  - verification of two years teaching experience in special education;
  - completion of a Level II individualized induction plan including a formal recommendation for the Professional Clear Level II Credential by the college or university through which the individualized induction plan was completed; and
  - submission of an application form (41-4) and current application fee for the Professional Clear Level II Credential.

If requirements are not met by the dates specified, the credential will be inactivated. The credential will be re-activated when the Commission receives verification of completion of the outstanding requirements.

### **FIVE-YEAR PRELIMINARY LEVEL I EDUCATION SPECIALIST INSTRUCTION CREDENTIAL BASED ON FIVE YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE (AB1620 - SCOTT)**

- minimum of five years of **full-time teaching**<sup>1</sup> in the disability area of the credential sought,
- bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university,
- professional preparation program in the requested disability area at a regionally accredited college or university,
- valid corresponding special education credential from another state,
- evidence of **rigorous performance evaluations**<sup>2</sup> on which the applicant received a rating of satisfactory or better,
- passage of CBEST (one-year nonrenewable available), and
- offer of employment from a California school district, county office of education, non-sectarian school or agency, or school operating under the direction of a California state agency.

**NOTE:** A teacher already employed in California on a valid credential issued by the Commission who meets all applicable provisions of this option may apply for a preliminary teaching credential provided that he or she submits a performance evaluation from the employing California school district consistent with the conditions described for evaluations received out of state.

Completion of the above requirements results in a Five-Year Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential. For requirements for the Level II credential, see Page 3 of this leaflet.

### **RECIPROCITY (AB1620-SCOTT)**

- ☐ Completion, **since January 1, 1997**, of a teacher preparation program from a state, determined to have comparable standards to the California Education Specialist Credential (verified by either a copy of the certificate from the approved state or an eligibility letter from the institution where the program was completed or the state agency responsible for issuing the certificate). The out-of-state special education program must be in the approved categorical area of the Education Specialist Instruction Credential requested. See the table to determine which state and specific categorical areas have been approved for this option.
- ☐ Passage of CBEST (one-year nonrenewable available at an employers request)
- ☐ For the preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential, an offer of employment from a California school district, county office of education, non-sectarian school or agency, or school operating under the direction of a California state agency. The Certificate of Eligibility is available to those who do not have appropriate California employment.

**NOTE:** A teacher who qualifies for this option but has already been employed in California on a valid credential may apply under this option.

Completion of the above requirements results in Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential. For requirements for the Level II credential, see page 3 of this leaflet.

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<sup>1</sup>**Full-Time Teaching Experience:** Out-of-state teachers must have five years of teaching experience to qualify for California certification under this option. This experience must be full-time teaching, no part-time or combination of teaching and other school employment will be accepted. All experience must be gained in public schools in states other than California while serving on a valid teaching credential. This experience must be verified by the superintendent or the assistant superintendent or director of personnel on the official letterhead of the district or districts in which the teacher was employed.

<sup>2</sup>**Rigorous Performance Evaluations:** Copies of evaluations of the teacher's performance in at least two of the years of teaching must be submitted with a verification of their authenticity given in writing by a personnel officer in the district in which the evaluations took place. At least one of the evaluations must have been conducted within the last two years of teaching. Evaluation ratings must be satisfactory or better. **If you have had any recent full-time teaching experience in California, an evaluation from your California employer must be included.**

The teaching effectiveness areas on the performance evaluation must include, but are not be limited to 1) the use of teaching strategies that motivate all students to engage in the learning process, 2) the ability to establish and maintain high standards for student behavior, 3) a demonstration of deep knowledge of the subject being taught and the use of appropriate instructional strategies that promote student understanding, and 4) an ability to plan and implement a sequence of appropriate instructional activities. If these areas are not included in the evaluation, the applicant would not qualify under these requirements.

## Reciprocity for Out-of-State Special Education Preparation Programs Completed Between 1-1-97 and 1-1-2003

The following table identifies the special education teacher preparation programs in other states that have been determined by the Commission to be comparable for the purposes of applying for the California preliminary level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential in the categorical areas indicated. In general, the categorical areas include the Federal disability categories. When the Commission determined that comparability requires the completion of a specific document(s) or level(s) by name or grade, or an additional requirement, it is noted on the chart.

State	M/M	M/S	DHH	PHI	VI	ECSE
Alabama	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arkansas			X		X	X
Colorado	Moderate Needs	Severe Needs: Cognitive	X	Profound Needs	X	X
Delaware	X				X	
Florida	Requires both Specific Learning Disabilities & Emotionally Handicapped		X	X	X	
Georgia	Requires both Learning Disabilities and Behavior Disorders		X	X	X	
Hawaii	X	X				
Indiana	X		X		X	
Iowa	Mild/Moderate K-6 Only	Moderate/Severe/Profound K-12 Only	Hearing Impaired K-6 Only	Physically Handicapped K-6 Only	Visually Impaired K-6 Only	X
Kentucky	X	X	X		X	
Louisiana	X	X	X		X	X
Maine						X
Maryland	X	X	X		X	X
Massachusetts	X	X	Requires both Provisional Certificate Advanced Standing in ASL/TC <sup>1</sup> & Oral/Aural		X	
Michigan	X	Requires both Mentally Impaired & Emotionally Impaired	X	X	X	X
Missouri	X	X	X	X	X	
Montana	X					
Nebraska	X	X	Hearing Impaired Pre K-12 or K-9 or both Pre K-3 and 7-12		X	X
New Hampshire	Requires both Emotionally Disturbed/Behaviorally Disordered & Learning Disabled		X			

<sup>1</sup> American Sign Language/Total Communication

State	M/M	M/S	DHH	PHI	VI	ECSE
New Mexico	X					
North Carolina	Specific Learning Disabilities or Cross-Categorical <sup>2</sup>	X	X		X	X
North Dakota	X	Requires both Mentally Retarded & Emotionally Disturbed	X	X	X	X
Oklahoma	X	X	X		X	
Oregon	X	X	X		X	
Pennsylvania	X	X	X		X	
Rhode Island	X	X	X		X	Requires both Special Needs and Early Childhood Education
South Carolina	X	X	X		X	
South Dakota	X		X			Birth through Preschool Special Education
Tennessee	Requires Special Ed Modified Program Endorsement	Requires Special Ed Comprehensive Program Endorsement	X	X	X	X
Utah	X	X	X		X	X
Virginia	Requires both Emotional Disturbance & Learning Disabilities	Requires both Mental Retardation & Severe Disabilities	X		X	X
Wisconsin	Requires both Learning Disabilities & Emotional Disturbance	Requires both Cognitive Disabilities & Emotional Disturbance	X			X
Wyoming	X		X		X	X

<sup>2</sup>Mild/Moderate (with master's degree and license in Specific Learning Disabilities and license in Behaviorally-Emotionally Handicapped) was found to be comparable for the Professional Clear Level II Education Specialist Instruction Credential.

#### Legend

Code	California Title	Federal Disability Categories
M/M	Mild/Moderate Disabilities	specific learning disability, mental retardation (mild/moderate), serious emotional disturbance
M/S	Moderate/Severe Disabilities	mental retardation (moderate/severe), serious emotional disturbance, multiple disabilities, autism, deaf-blindness
DHH	Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing	deafness or hearing impairment, deaf-blindness
PHI	Physical and Health Impairments	multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, traumatic brain injury
VI	Visual Impairments	deaf-blindness, visual impairment including blindness
ECSE	Early Childhood Special Education	birth through pre-kindergarten: mental retardation, serious emotional disturbance, multiple disabilities, autism, deaf-blindness